Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling microparticles (22) that bind a desired component from a sample, comprising:

(a) providing a vessel (26), wherein the vessel contains microparticles (22) in a solution (23), wherein the solution comprises a sample, wherein the sample comprises a desired biological component, wherein the desired component is selected from the group consisting of: a nucleic acid, a protein, a peptide, a cell organelle, a bacterium, a cell, and a virus;

(b) incubating the microparticles and the sample in the vessel for a time sufficient for the microparticles to bind the desired component from the sample;

(c) performing at least two treatment steps of the microparticles (22)~~, wherein the at least two treatment steps are performed~~ in ~~a~~ the vessel (26) with a magnetic tool (10) equipped with a protective shield (21) or coating ~~without moving~~wherein the microparticles are not moved to another vessel, and wherein the microparticles (22) are magnetic particles selected from the group consisting of: ferromagnetic particles, paramagnetic particles, and superparamagnetic particles, wherein the magnetic tool comprises a ferromagnetic sleeve; ~~and~~

~~(b)~~ wherein the at least two treatment steps in the vessel comprise:

- at least one change of solutions (23) comprising removing one solution from the vessel and adding another solution to the vessel, wherein the microparticles (22) are collected and bound on the protective shield (21) or coating of the magnetic tool (10) during the at least one change of solutions (23); and

at least one mixing, wherein the microparticles (22) are mixed in the vessel (26) by moving the magnetic tool (10) in the solution (23) containing the microparticles thereby mixing the microparticles.~~,~~

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~~wherein the desired component is a biomolecule selected from the group consisting of: a nucleic acid, a protein, a peptide, a cell organelle, a bacterium, a cell, and a virus.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~comprising:

(a) collecting the microparticles (22) in the solution to the inner surface of the vessel (26) by an external magnet (13) during ~~the~~ at least one change of solutions (23)~~, the microparticles (22) are bound to the inner surface of the vessel (26) by an external magnet (13)~~;

(b) homogenizing the microparticles (22) ~~are homogenized~~ from the inner surface of the vessel (26) to ~~a~~ the solution (23) in the vessel ~~by a magnet (13) of a~~using the magnetic tool (10)~~, wherein the magnetic tool is equipped with an elastomer or a non-elastomer shield (21) or coating~~; ~~and~~

(c) binding the microparticles to the protective shield or coating of the magnetic tool; and

(d) transferring the microparticles (22) ~~are transferred~~ out of the vessel (26) to another vessel (26) ~~by~~ using the magnetic tool (10).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~comprising:

(a) washing the microparticles with a wash solution (23)~~the microparticles (22) are bound on a surface of an elastomer or a non-elastomer shield (21) of a magnetic tool (10), or the microparticles (22) are bound on the inner surface of the vessel (26) by an external magnet (13) during a whole procedure~~; ~~and~~

(b) removing the wash~~ing~~ solution~~s~~ (23) ~~are changed~~ by removing the wash solution in the vessel (26) and adding another solution to the vessel, or

binding the microparticles to the protective shield or coating of the magnetic tool and transferring the microparticles (22) out of the vessel (26) to another vessel (26) using the magnetic tool (10) ~~in separate vessels~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~in the vessel (26), the solution or the solution that contains the microparticles (22) is mixed by a~~ the magnetic tool (10)~~, wherein~~ further comprises an elastomeric membrane or bellows covering the magnetic tool ~~is being stretched and released in the solution (23)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~:~~

~~(a)~~ the vessel (26) is closed while mixing the solution (23) containing the microparticles~~; and~~

~~(b) in the vessel (26), the solution (23) or the solution that contains the microparticles (22) is mixed bya magnetic tool (10), wherein an elastomer membrane or bellows covering the magnetic tool is being stretched and released in the solution (23)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~comprising:

(a) collecting the microparticles in the solution (23) ~~in a solution (23), the microparticles (22) are bound~~ on the inner surface of the vessel (26) by an external magnet (13) during at least one change of solutions (23);

(b) homogenizing the microparticles (22) from the inner surface ~~are homogenized~~of the vessel ~~in the~~to the solution (23) using the magnetic tool ~~and~~;

(c) ~~mixed~~ performing the at least one mixing of the microparticles by moving the magnetic tool (10) in the solution (23) containing the microparticles~~by a magnetic tool by stretching and releasing elastomer membrane or bellows covering the magnetic tool~~;

(~~e~~d) washing the microparticles in a wash solutions ~~(23)~~; and

(e) ~~are changed~~removing the wash solution (23) in the vessel (26) by removing the wash solution in the vessel (26) and adding another solution to the vessel, or binding the microparticles to the protective shield or coating of the magnetic tool and transferring the microparticles (22) out of the vessel (26) to another vessel (26) using the magnetic tool (10)~~in separate vessels (26); and~~

~~(d) the microparticles (22) are transferred out of the vessel (26) to another vessel by the magnetic tool (10)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~comprising~~:~~

~~(a)~~ collecting the microparticles (22) in ~~a~~ the solution (23) ~~the microparticles (22) are collected~~ on the inner surface of the vessel (26) ~~by~~ using an external magnet (13) having a ferromagnetic sleeve (12) during at least one change of solutions (23)~~; and~~

~~(b) the microparticles (22) are bound on the inner surface of the vessel (26) during the change of solutions (23)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~comprising:

(a) collecting the microparticles (22) in the solution (23) on the inner surface of the vessel (26) using an external magnet (13) having a ferromagnetic sleeve (12) during at least one change of solutions (23)~~the microparticles (22) are collected on the inner surface of the vessel (26) by an external magnet (13) having a ferromagnetic sleeve (12)~~;

(b) ~~the microparticles (22) are bound on the inner surface of the vessel (26) during the change of solutions (23);~~

~~(c) the vessel (26) is closed~~ closing the vessel with ~~by~~ a protective membrane made of elastomeric material;

(~~d~~c) homogenizing the microparticles (22) from the inner surface of the vessel to the solution (23) using the magnetic tool~~the microparticles (22) are homogenized in a solution (23) and mixed by an elastomer membrane, a magnetic tool (10)~~ or a pipette; ~~and~~

(e~~d~~) binding the microparticles to the protective shield or coating of the magnetic tool; and

(e) transferring the microparticles (22) out of the vessel (26) to another vessel using the magnetic tool (10)~~the microparticles (22) are transferred out of the vessel (26) by the magnetic tool (10)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~comprising:

(a) collecting the microparticles (22) ~~are collected~~ on a filter (77) on the bottom of the vessel (26), during at least one change of solutions;

(b) removing ~~wherein~~ at least a part of ~~a~~ one solution (23) ~~is removed~~ through the filter;

(~~b~~c) adding ~~the~~ another solution (23) ~~is conducted~~ through the filter (77) ~~and the microparticles (22) on the filter~~;

(~~c~~d) binding the microparticles to the protective shield or coating of the magnetic tool; and

(e) transferring the microparticles (22) out of the vessel (26) to another vessel using the magnetic tool (10)

~~the microparticles (22) are collected on a shield (21) of a magnetic tool (10) and transferred out of the vessel (26)~~.

11-21. (Cancelled)